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Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 65 jointly with item 64 at its 10th to 14th meetings, from 11 to 13 October, and considered proposals and took action on item 65 at its 43rd meeting, on 18 November 2005. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/60/SR.10-14 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/60/170);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women (A/60/211);

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(c) Letter dated 5 July 2005 from the representative of Jamaica to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action adopted by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77, held at Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005 (A/60/111);

(d) Letter dated 21 September 2005 from the representative of China to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Beijing Plus 10 Declaration: solidarity for gender equality, development and peace, adopted at the Beijing Plus 10 Conference to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/60/371).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 11 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Director of the Internal Audit Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see A/C.3/60/SR.10).

5. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (see A/C.3/60/SR.10).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.67

6. At its 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/60/L.67), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Following a statement by the Vice-Chairperson, Catarina Carvalho (Portugal), the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.67 without a vote (see para. 10).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (see A/C.3/60/SR.43).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 59/168 of 20 December 2004,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women contained therein, the commitments made at the major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit in this regard,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

Reaffirming also that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential for the empowerment of women and girls,

Reaffirming further that the full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making in society enhances social and economic development policies and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and welcomes the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the outcome transmitted to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, including to the 2005 World Summit, in Council decision 2005/232 of 20 July 2005;

3. *Emphasizes* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

5. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[6] and to take into consideration the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, and also calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

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[4] A/60/170.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[6] Resolution 54/4, annex.

7. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to play a central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in this regard welcomes their reaffirmation in the outcome of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, calls upon the Commission to give particular attention to the sharing of experiences and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels, and in this regard encourages all actors, inter alia Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission;

8. *Calls upon* Governments, the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through:

(a) Sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels to take further action, inter alia, through the mainstreaming of gender perspectives, including through the development and use of gender equality indicators, as applicable, into all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women, and enhanced international cooperation;

(b) Promotion and protection of, and respect for, the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women, including through the full implementation by States of their obligations under all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(c) Respect for the rule of law, including legislation, and continued efforts to repeal laws and eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and girls, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect their rights and promote gender equality;

(d) Strengthening the role of national institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the advancement of women, including through financial and other appropriate assistance;

(e) Undertaking socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women, and strengthening the provision of and ensuring equal access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services, including education and training at all levels, as well as to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems for women throughout their life cycle, and supporting national efforts in this regard;

(f) Adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources;

(g) Increased partnerships among Governments, civil society and the private sector;

(h) Encouraging joint responsibility of men and boys with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality;

9. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims, and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement strategies in this regard;

10. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

11. *Notes* that, at its fiftieth session, the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to discuss its working methods and develop a new programme of work to begin in 2007, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission with recommendations for enhancing the Commission's work as well as proposals for future themes;

12. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2[7] and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

13. *Notes* the efforts of its Main Committees to pay attention to gender issues, and resolves to intensify such efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, as well as in all future United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and in their follow-up processes;

14. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

15. *Reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality;

16. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, while noting the fifth anniversary of its adoption and the open debates in the Security Council on women and peace and security;

17. *Recognizes* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and urges Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of a gender perspective and the full and equal participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security, as well as to increase their role in decision-making at all levels, including through the development of national action plans and strategies;

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

18. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as reaffirmed in the Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session,[8] through, inter alia, the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as through ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for gender mainstreaming;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress on gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and to recommend further measures to enhance implementation.

[8] See Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.